GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4371
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2016
Recall of Indian and Pakistani Envoys
Senguttuvan Shri Balasubramaniam

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is likely to temporarily recall the Indian High Commissioner and downsize the diplomatic personnel working in the Indian High Commission in Islamabad and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether this situation has arisen on account of the arrest and deportation of an ISI agent posing as a diplomatic staff of Pakistani High Commission indulging in espionage activities in India and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the heightened diplomatic and border tension between the two countries is a creation by ISI to dictate its terms in the matter of succession to its current chief; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) & (b) No. The Government made arrangements for the return of eight officials of High Commission of India in Islamabad in end October/ early November, 2016. This was on account of baseless allegations leveled against these officials by Government of Pakistan and Pakistan media, endangering the safety and security of these officials and their family members in Pakistan. The baseless allegation by Government of Pakistan against these officials followed Pakistan's decision to withdraw six Pakistani diplomats reportedly named by Mehmood Akhtar, who was apprehended by Indian law enforcement authorities on October 27, 2016 while indulging in anti-India activities.

The positions falling vacant in the High Commission of India, Islamabad consequent to the return of the aforementioned eight officials to India are to be filled through normal administrative process. There is no proposal with the Government to reduce the strength of High Commission of India in Islamabad.

(c) & (d) While change in the leadership of Pakistan's State institutions, including its army is an internal matter of Pakistan, there has been a sustained escalation this year of cross border terrorism and infiltration of armed terrorists across International Border (IB) & Line of Control (LoC) tasked to carry out acts of terrorism in the State of Jammu & Kashmir and elsewhere in India. The Government has reminded the Government of Pakistan through military and diplomatic channels about it's responsibility to stop all terrorism directed against India, emanating from territories under Pakistan's control.